acuto, producto, medio subelevatum ; *humeralia* parva, quadrilatera, margine exteriore longissimo, interiore brevissimo ; *pectoralia* maxima, irregularitèr quadrilatera, alis anticè profundè sinuatis ; *abdominalia* transversè quadrilatera ; *femoralia* trapezoidea ; *analia* subrhomboidea.

*Testæ osseæ mensura.*

| | unc. | lin. |
|---|---|---|
| Longitudo dorsi . . . . . | 6 | 5 |
| Latitudo ejusdem . . . . . | 4 | 8 |
| Longitudo sterni . . . . . | 5 | 6 |
| Altitudo . . . . . | 2 | 2 |

Of this, the typical, and at present the only known species of the genus, little has hitherto been ascertained respecting its habits, and even its characters have been but imperfectly described. The first account of it is given by Dr. Shaw in the Zoology of New Holland, and in the General Zoology, accompanied by a plate; but he observes that nothing was known of its manners or history. Schweigger, who states that he saw a living specimen in Paris, is also silent on this point. The acquisition of a very fine healthy individual, for which I am indebted to the kindness of my friend Walter Buchanan, Esq., has, however, enabled me to add some details of its mode of feeding and other habits, as far as can be ascertained in a state of comparative confinement.

It has now been in my possession more than a year, and still continues in the best health. During the summer of 1834 it fed heartily, and almost voraciously on small living fish. It inhabited a small pond in company with four specimens of *Emys concentrica*. Wishing to ascertain the truth of the statement that the air-bag of fishes is rejected by piscivorous *Testudinata*, I placed six living dace in the tank with the five tortoises above mentioned : it was late in the evening. The next morning I found five air-bags floating on the surface, and one of the fish still swimming about. This took place generally, though not invariably, in several other instances; but I afterwards found that they ceased to reject the air-bags, at least as a general rule. It is exceedingly familiar, and will follow the finger from one part of the pond to another, in search



of food, which it readily takes from the hand. It occasionally comes on shore to sun itself, but speedily regains the water if disturbed, and always remains in it at night. One of its most remarkable habits is that it very frequently rises to the surface, and remains with only the anterior part of the head just behind the eyes emerged, the rest of the head with the whole body being under water, in which position it will continue motionless for a considerable time; a circumstance which shows a remarkable power of regulating its specific gravity by the quantity of air taken into the lungs, as it must necessarily preserve the specific gravity of the water, excepting the small portion of the head which is exserted. When in this position, the remarkable brilliancy of the eyes, the smallness of its head, and the excessive length of the neck, render it a very peculiar and striking object.

Like the whole family of *Hydraspidæ*, it retracts its head by bending the neck laterally, and from the great length of that part, it requires two complete duplications to conceal it wholly under the anterior edge of the upper shell, which, when thus retracted, it exactly meets, occupying the whole space between the fore legs. Its powers of swimming are considerable, as may be supposed from the narrowness of the alæ of the sternum, allowing great space for the motion of all the legs. The feet present the remarkable anomaly of having four nails only on each.